

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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September 30, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Philip L. Browning, Director

SUBJECT: REPORT ON CASH ACCESSIBILITY WITH ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER

I am pleased to report to your Board on the continued success of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) in Los Angeles County. As you know, EBT allows participants to access food stamps and cash benefits via a magnetic stripe card, similar to bank debit cards, at participating retailer point of sales terminals and automated teller machines.

The accessibility of cash with EBT in Los Angeles County continues to increase. In last year's update, there were 12,108 locations where participants could get cash. Currently, there are 13,484 locations. In addition:

- There are 2,389 surcharge-free locations now available.
- There are 11,095 locations with surcharges where participants are allowed to withdraw up to the maximum limit set by the ATM itself. Most state-of-the-art ATMs have a withdrawal limit that is set at \$500 or more per transaction.
- The above two totals amount to 13,484 locations where participants can get cash. In addition, there are other retailers such as Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and Target, that are not included in this total, where participants can get up to \$200 in cash.

In last year's State of California Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Cash Access Plan Update, there were two zip codes that were underserved. Los Angeles County's definition of an underserved zip code is a zip code with over 400 recipients for which daily cash requirement is not 100% met. Under this definition, there are no zip codes that are currently underserved.

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In conclusion, cash access countywide has increased by 1,376 locations since the last report. We will continue to update your Board annually on the cash accessibility of EBT.

PLB:ag

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Deputy CEO
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors